
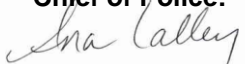
	ELGIN POLICE DEPARTMENT 151 Douglas Avenue Elgin, Illinois 60120	
Effective Date: 07/30/01	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE	Revised Date: 03/27/24
Chief of Police: 	Motor Vehicle Pursuits, 41.5	
Cross Reference: SOP 1.3 Response to Resistance 720 ILCS 5/2-8		Policy Sections: 41.5.1 Decision to Initiate the Pursuit 41.5.2 Decision to Terminate the Pursuit 41.5.3 Restrictions 41.5.4 Initiating Officer's Responsibilities 41.5.5 Secondary Officer's Responsibilities 41.5.6 Support Units 41.5.7 The Emergency Communications Division Responsibilities 41.5.8 Supervisor's Responsibilities 41.5.9 Forcible Stopping/Roadblocks 41.5.10 Pursuits into Elgin from Other Jurisdictions (Inter-Jurisdictional) 41.5.11 Required Documentation

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for making decisions with regard to vehicular pursuits and the associated responsibilities, proper conduct, termination, and reporting requirements.

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the department to protect human life and property. Officers shall use good judgment when considering a vehicle pursuit and follow the guidelines established in this policy. The objective of a motor vehicle pursuit is to maintain police contact with a fleeing driver. However, when the risks to human life and/or property begin to outweigh the benefits of capture, officers should refrain or disengage from pursuits.

DEFINITIONS

Emergency Warning Device: Oscillating lights, rotating lights, flashing lights, siren or any combination located on or within police vehicles.

Forcible Felony: Pursuant to 720 ILCS 5/2-8, means treason, first degree murder, second degree murder, predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, aggravated criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual assault, robbery, burglary, residential burglary, aggravated arson, arson, aggravated kidnapping, kidnapping, aggravated battery resulting in great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement and any other felony which involves the use or threat of physical force against any individual.

I.S.P.E.R.N.: Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network.

Intra-Jurisdictional Pursuit: When a pursuit originates in another jurisdiction and enters the city limits of Elgin.

Inter-Jurisdictional Pursuit: A pursuit that leaves the city limits of Elgin and continues into one or more adjacent jurisdictions.

Marked Police Vehicle: Any police vehicle that is identifiable by a specialized color scheme, department seal and specialized lettering.

Marked Subdued Police Vehicle: Any police vehicle that is not immediately recognized; however, the identifiers are recognizable when viewed at close range, and are reflective during the nighttime hours.

Primary Unit: The police vehicle that initiates a pursuit or any unit that assumes control of the pursuit as the lead vehicle positioned immediately behind the fleeing suspect.

Pursuit: An active attempt by a law enforcement officer in a motor vehicle to apprehend a fleeing suspect who is actively attempting to elude the police.

Roadblock: A complete barricade of the roadway, constructed so as not to allow a vehicle to pass through or around the barricade.

Secondary Unit: The police vehicle which becomes involved as a backup to the primary unit and follows the primary unit at a safe distance.

Support Unit(s): Police vehicles not directly involved in the pursuit, through non-emergency driving, remains in close proximity to the pursuit. These vehicles may be located behind, in front of, or approaching the pursuit from the side. They may be used to block traffic, warn traffic and/or pedestrians, or be available to assist in any other way.

Unmarked Police Vehicle: Any police vehicle which has no distinctive identifiable markings.

PROCEDURES

41.5.1 DECISION TO INITIATE THE PURSUIT

Officers will not initiate or become involved in a pursuit for misdemeanor traffic offenses, property crimes, and non-forcible felonies, which pose no serious threat of force or serious harm. However, it is understood that at times, an officer needs a reasonable amount of time to assess the situation to determine the totality of the circumstances. The decision to initiate a pursuit shall be based on all of the following factors:

- A. The pursuing officer's conclusion that the immediate danger to the officer and the public created by the pursuit is less than the immediate or potential danger to the public, should the suspect remain at large.
- B. The officer can articulate a reason to believe the occupant(s) of a fleeing vehicle has committed or attempted to commit a forcible felony which involves the infliction or threatened infliction of great bodily harm, is attempting to escape by use of a deadly weapon, or otherwise indicates they will endanger human life or inflict great bodily harm unless arrested without delay. All officers involved in a pursuit must, at all times, be able to assess their reasons for the pursuit.
- C. The suspect exhibits the intention to avoid apprehension by refusing to stop when properly directed to do so.
- D. In deciding whether to initiate a pursuit, the officer shall also take into consideration:
 - 1. Road, weather, time of day, and environmental/road conditions.
 - 2. Population density, vehicular, and pedestrian traffic.
 - 3. The relative performance capabilities of the pursuit vehicle and the vehicle being pursued.
 - 4. Seriousness of the offense.
 - 5. Familiarity of geographic location.
 - 6. Skill, training, and experience of the pursuing officer.
 - 7. Non-police personnel in the police unit.
 - 8. The identity of the suspect(s) has been verified and there is comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspect(s) to be apprehended at a later time.
 - 9. Vehicle speeds.

- E. Should an officer with a civilian passenger become engaged in a pursuit, he/she will immediately request assistance of a marked or marked subdued police vehicle and will relinquish primary or secondary unit status upon the presence of another marked or marked subdued vehicle.
- F. No employee shall direct or request another law enforcement agency to initiate or assume a vehicle pursuit within the City of Elgin's jurisdiction that would otherwise be prohibited under Elgin's policy.

41.5.2 DECISION TO TERMINATE THE PURSUIT

- A. The shift supervisor and primary pursuit officer have discretion in determining when a pursuit should be terminated. Shift supervisors are responsible for monitoring a pursuit. However, when appropriate, this responsibility may be accepted by a more senior or special division supervisor. Throughout the pursuit, supervisors and officers shall continuously assess the reasons for continuing the pursuit.
- B. Pursuing officers shall immediately terminate their involvement in the pursuit if any of the following events or conditions occurs:
 - 1. It becomes evident that the risk to life and property outweigh the benefit derived from the immediate apprehension of the offender.
 - 2. Upon the order of a sworn supervisor.
 - 3. Their vehicle experiences equipment failure or malfunction involving lights, siren, radio, brakes, steering, or any other essential equipment.
 - 4. The suspect vehicle and/or the suspect's identity have been established to the point that later apprehension can be accomplished and there is no longer a need for immediate apprehension.
 - 5. The environmental conditions create an unacceptable heightened risk if the pursuit is continued. Traffic congestion and roadway conditions are a few examples of environmental conditions.
 - 6. Contact with the suspect vehicle is lost.
 - 7. Any other situation where an officer believes continuation of the pursuit would not be in the best interests of the department and/or the community.
- C. An officer shall be considered to have terminated a pursuit by extinguishing all emergency warning devices and operating the police vehicle in accordance with all applicable motor vehicle laws. The officer is not required to alter his/her direction of travel to satisfy the terms of a termination of the pursuit. However, if the officer's intention is to maintain contact with the violator, the in-car mobile recording system shall remain activated.

41.5.3 RESTRICTIONS

- A. The restriction of the below listed vehicles does not preclude officers operating these vehicles from initiating a pursuit or becoming a secondary unit if they have both lights and siren. The situation must necessitate immediate police action whereas a delay in awaiting other responding units would adversely affect operations. Upon availability of a marked or marked subdued police vehicle, officers operating a restricted vehicle shall not continue as a primary unit.
 - 1. All-terrain vehicles.
 - 2. Unmarked vehicles that do not have lights and siren.
 - 3. Vans.

- B. Officers shall not normally follow the pursuit on parallel streets, unless authorized by a supervisor and such operation does not present an unreasonable hazard to other vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- C. A pursuit will generally consist of no more than two police vehicles, a primary and secondary unit. Additional units may participate when there is a clear officer safety need or when authorized by a supervisor.
- D. Police units transporting detainees shall not become engaged in pursuits.

41.5.4 INITIATING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. When engaged in a pursuit, officers shall activate both the emergency lights and siren to allow for safe movement, radio communication and to notify the offending vehicle the officer is attempting to stop them.
- B. Whenever two officers are in one vehicle, the driver is responsible for the operation of the vehicle and all emergency equipment in the vehicle.
- C. When an officer initiates a pursuit, he/she shall notify the Emergency Communications Division immediately.
 - 1. Should an Elgin initiated pursuit leave the city limits (intra-jurisdictional), the officer must obtain supervisory approval to continue the pursuit.
 - a. The officer shall notify Emergency Communications Division, and the Illinois State Police via ISPERN.
 - b. As soon as practicable, the Emergency Communications Division shall notify the involved jurisdiction.
 - c. Officers shall adhere to the guidelines in this policy, irrespective of what is requested by the other agency.
- D. The officer shall relay relevant facts about the pursuit, such as:
 - 1. Location.
 - 2. Direction of travel.
 - 3. Description of vehicle, to include the registration number.
 - 4. Reason for pursuit/nature of the offense.
 - 5. Speed.
 - 6. Number and description of occupants, if possible, and any other relevant factors.
 - 7. Location of any accidents so medical assistance and an additional police unit can be dispatched.
- E. The officer shall keep the Emergency Communications Division updated on the progress of the pursuit.
- F. When contact is lost with the pursued vehicle, the primary unit shall broadcast any additional information to assist other units in locating suspects.

41.5.5 SECONDARY OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. When the secondary unit engages in the pursuit, the officer shall:
 - 1. Activate both the emergency lights and siren, as needed.
 - 2. Advise the Emergency Communications Division that they will be the secondary unit.
 - 3. Call out the route of the pursuit.
- B. In the event of mechanical failure or crash resulting in the primary unit being unable to continue or maintain immediate pursuit, the secondary unit shall assume the position of primary unit and request that another marked unit be assigned as secondary.

41.5.6 SUPPORT UNITS

- A. Support units are not directly involved in the pursuit, but remain alert to its progress and location in the event they are needed to assist with traffic direction, crash investigation, foot pursuit, perimeter security, etc.
- B. Support units are authorized to use emergency equipment to warn the public.

41.5.7 THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon receiving information that an officer is in pursuit, the telecommunicator shall:

- A. Clear frequencies.
- B. Notify all units of pursuit information.
- C. Ensure the shift supervisor is notified.
- D. Coordinate pursuit vehicles.
- E. Update support units of the pursuit information.
- F. Alert other jurisdictions when appropriate.
- G. Check registration of pursued vehicle and relay information to all units.
- H. Notify all units when the pursuit has been terminated.

41.5.8 SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Shift supervisors are generally responsible for coordinating the police response throughout the pursuit and ensuring all reports are completed. However, when appropriate, this responsibility may be accepted by a more senior or special division supervisor. Refer to section 41.5.11 for information on required documentation.
- B. Monitoring Involvement:
 - 1. It shall be the responsibility of the appropriate supervisor to continually review the facts given by the pursuing officer and to make independent judgments whether or not the pursuit should continue. This includes authorizing or denying the pursuit to continue outside the city limits.
 - 2. Based on all information available, the appropriate supervisor shall order the termination of the pursuit if, in his/her opinion, the danger created by the pursuit outweighs the need for

an immediate apprehension of the offender. Refer to Section 41.5.2 for more information on the decision to terminate the pursuit.

C. Response to Termination Scene:

1. The appropriate supervisor shall respond to the termination scene of any pursuit including locations outside the city limits of Elgin, when initiated by an Elgin police officer.
2. In the event of a crash or injuries as a result of any pursuit, the supervisor shall respond to the scene.

41.5.9 FORCIBLE STOPPING/ROADBLOCKS

A. Except in situations where deadly force is authorized, as described in Standard Operating Procedure 1.3 Response to Resistance, officers shall not:

1. Attempt to deliberately collide with or pull in front of pursued vehicles. During high risk arrests, members of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) are authorized to utilize the tactical maneuver of bumping a parked or slow moving vehicle to prevent an escape.
2. Use the police unit to force any other vehicle off a roadway.
3. Discharge a firearm at or from a moving vehicle.
4. Utilize roadblocks, as defined in this policy. During high risk arrests, members of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) are authorized to utilize the tactical maneuver of boxing in a parked or slow moving vehicle to prevent an escape.

41.5.10 PURSUITS INTO ELGIN FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS (INTER-JURISDICTIONAL)

When a pursuit originates in another jurisdiction and enters the city limits of Elgin, assistance from Elgin police officers, with permission of their shift supervisor, is limited to blocking intersections and providing a response to a crash.

- A. The Elgin police Telecommunicator may assign secondary and support units to the pursuit, using the guidelines established in this policy.
- B. The Elgin police Telecommunicator shall maintain communications with the agency initiating pursuit when possible.

41.5.11 REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A. All pursuits involving Elgin police officers shall be documented by completing police report and a Pursuit Driving Report Form using the Frontline Public Safety Solutions system, even if the pursuit was terminated prior to apprehension of the pursued subject. The police report shall outline the pursuit circumstances, officer's actions, and activities.
- B. As soon as practical, the appropriate supervisor shall conduct a vehicle pursuit debrief meeting with individuals who were involved in the pursuit. Based on the totality of the circumstances, the participants of the debrief meeting are at the discretion of the supervisor.
 1. The administrative review shall be documented using the department-authorized template. [View the Supervisory Post Pursuit Summary.](#)
 2. The review shall include a review of the squad video footage and any other relevant video footage. The following topics shall be determined:
 - a. Positive aspects of the pursuit.
 - b. Unfavorable aspects of the pursuit.

- c. Equipment failure.
 - d. Policy failure or weakness.
 - e. Training issues.
- 3. A copy of the administrative review shall be uploaded to the document portion of the Pursuit Driving Report located in the Frontline Public Safety Solutions reporting system.
- D. The Training Division shall be notified of identified policy and/or training issues.
- E. Annually, the Commander for Operations shall conduct a review of all pursuits to determine if there are any trends requiring additional training or directive changes.